(c) to what extent, the financial burden would increase due to creation of these posts in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a proposal for creation of 2661 posts in the non-gazetted cadre in RPF. The proposal is pending with Ministry of Finance for ratification.

(c) Rs. 23.98 Crores approximately.

Problems of hawkers in Railways

1496. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a group of 30 Members of Parliament met him and demanded solution of problems of hawkers in Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a committee has been formed to look into the problems and find out the solutions; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that inspite of above, hawkers are regularly being tortured physically by RPF in Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Some Members of Parliament have submitted a jointly signed memorandum regarding problems of hawkers in Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Unauthorized hawking/vending in station premises or on trains is illegal and prohibited and constitutes an offence under Section 144 of Indian Railways Act, 1989 and Railways (Second Amendment) Act of 2003. Instructions have been given to Zonal Railways to curb this menace.

No specific complaint has been received so far from any corner regarding atrocities/assault/torture against hawkers by any Railway Protection Force staff.

Accommodation for railway employees

†1497. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accommodation is not available for 40-50 per cent of employees;

(b) whether the quarters available are very old and dilapidated; and

(c) what is the plan for construction of new quarters for the employees?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Approximately 47% of Railway officers/employees have been provided with railway accommodation. Leased accommodations are also provided to them. A large number of Railway officers/employees prefer to live in their own accommodation.

(b) Some of the railway quarters are very old and in dilapidated condition.

(c) Corporate Welfare Plan (2006-2015) has been prepared for replacement of old and dilapidated quarters on all Railways. Subject to availability of resources, priorities of works and other factors, Railways endeavour to replace old quarters and provide and maintain required facilities in the quarters as per entitlement of the employees.

Wastage of fuel due to closure of railway crossings

†1498. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that diesel, petrol and time of lakhs of people are wasted unnecessarily due to gate at railway crossings remaining closed in many places all over the country;

(b) whether Government intend to construct under-bridges and over-bridges at important railway crossings of Rajasthan for the convenience of lakhs of passengers and to do away with this wasteful expenditure of time, money and labour;

(c) if so, the details of the plan in this regard; and

(d) the details of the total number of places identified in the State by Government for the construction of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Level crossing gates are closed to facilitate safe running of trains on Railways right of way. Railways construct Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at the Level Crossing is one lakh or more TVUs (TVU-A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours); otherwise on deposit terms *i.e.* at the cost of the State Government concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. In addition, Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUB) are also being constructed by NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) on Deposit term basis. Railways make provision of funds in the budget on the basis of proposals received from the State Government for construction of Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis.

Recently, General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given powers to sanction Limited Height Sub-ways depending upon site conditions, costing upto Rs. 45 lakhs each. These shall be considered based on criteria of safety, closure of nearby level crossing, local road users requirement etc. The decision to take up

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.